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Collectivist Society (New York, N.Y.)

Constitution of the Collectivist Society...

[New York]

[1905]

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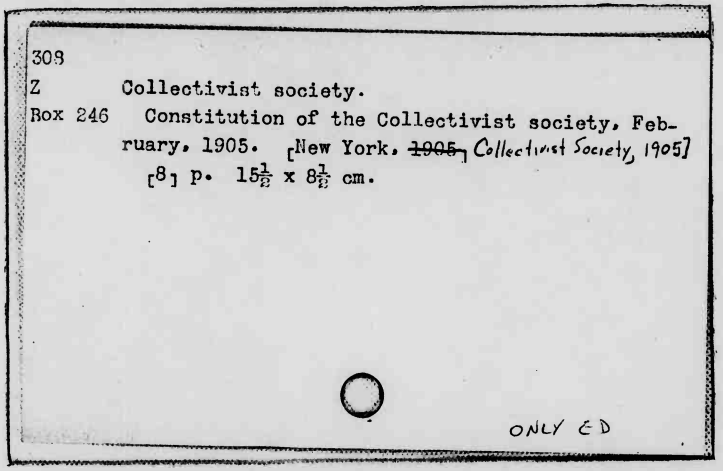
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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
COLLECTIVIST
SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY, 1905.

308
Z
Box 246

THE COLLECTIVIST SOCIETY

OF NEW YORK CITY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(1905 - 1906).

WILLIS J. ABBOT,
Battle Creek, Mich.
Mrs. CORINNE S. BROWN,
6230 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
PETER E. BURROWES,
11 Cooper Square, New York City.
Rev. A. L. BYRON-CURTISS,
Rome, N. Y.
W. J. GHENT,
260 West 54th Street, New York City.
Rev. LAWRENCE R. HOWARD,
446 West 5th Street, Plainfield, N. J.
ROBERT HUNTER,
88 Grove Street, New York City.
Rev. OWEN R. LOVEJOY,
24 North Ninth Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
Mrs. DARWIN J. MESEROLE,
160 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn.
C. F. NESBIT,
1408 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington.
J. G. PHELPS STOKES,
184 Eldridge Street, New York City.
GEORGE H. STROBELL,
44 Hill Street, Newark, N. J.
JAMES M. TRIMBLE,
16 Cedar Avenue, Montclair, N. J.
RUFUS W. WEEKS,
Tarrytown, New York.
Rev. LEIGHTON WILLIAMS,
312 West 54th Street, New York City.

Secretary and Treasurer,
Miss M. R. HOLBROOK,
123 Roseville Avenue, Newark, N. J.
Address all communications to
Post Office Box 1663, New York City.

Dec 27, 1929 DA
HEE

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

COLLECTIVIST SOCIETY

Adopted March 6, 1903. Amended January 19, 1905.

ARTICLE I.

BELIEF.

We believe that the true principle of production and distribution is expressed in the dictum—"From each according to his ability; to each according to his needs." This principle requires that all should have the opportunity of useful work, and that all should engage in useful work under the penalty of public disgrace; that all should receive comfortable incomes except those who will not work, and that none should receive excessively high incomes, as the latter are morally injurious both to the recipient and to the community. The ultimate operation of this principle will be toward the ideal of practical equality of incomes.

We believe that this principle can be made effective only by the people acting as a whole through governments truly democratic.

We believe that this is no far off ideal, but is in all civilized countries an attaina-

ble rule to be embodied, step by step, into law, custom and habit.

We believe that the establishment of this principle will require the transfer of the means of production and distribution into the hands of the community; and that every transfer of this nature should be accompanied by full provision for those expropriated, on the basis of their needs.

We believe that our governments, national, State and local, are worthy of hearty allegiance, as in the main good institutions, far more free and beneficent than governments in past times. We believe, however, that they can be made vastly more beneficent through changes for which the present time is ripe.

We believe that in those cases where the powers of government are now used for private gain to the detriment of the people at large, it is because the energetic demands of private interests are not met by an enlightened and united opposition.

We believe that this evil—the exploitation of the powers of government for private gain—should be abolished and our governments made fully responsive to the people's will, through the establishment of direct legislation, proportional representation and the power of recall.

We believe that the measures, other than the last named, which at present promise best results are:

Legislation to secure work to the unemployed; to establish a maximum day and a minimum wage for all workers; and to provide pensions for the aged.

The taxation of franchises at their full value, and the graduated taxation of land values, incomes and inheritances.

The assumption by city and State governments of enlarged and new activities for the common benefit, including the ownership of public utilities.

The assumption by the national Government of the telegraphs, railroads and mines.

ARTICLE II.

PLEDGE.

We pledge ourselves:

To work for the establishment of the principle declared above by such means as are for each most practicable.

To study the labor question and the various movements for social betterment earnestly and without prejudice.

To use our best efforts to strengthen and promote the labor union movement.

To cherish comradeship with all in every country who are working in a humane spirit

for the cause of social betterment, whether within or without the political Socialist movement.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person who signs the above Belief and Pledge may be elected a member of the Society by the Executive Committee. Three opposing votes shall exclude any candidate. Each member shall pay an initiation fee of one dollar, and an annual due of one dollar, beginning with the first of January following.

ARTICLE IV.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

Any person who signs a statement to the effect that, while he does not commit himself fully to the above Belief and Pledge, he yet agrees with the main purpose of the Society, may be elected by the Executive Committee an associate. Three opposing votes shall be sufficient to exclude any candidate.

Associates shall have all the rights of members except the right to vote, and shall pay an initiation fee of one dollar and an annual due of one dollar.

ARTICLE V.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP.

Members or associates who pay in addition to their regular dues at least ten dollars a year to the propaganda fund of the Society shall be enrolled as sustaining members.

ARTICLE VI.

MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the last Thursday in May of each year at a place to be designated by the Executive Committee. Notice shall be sent to each member of the time and place of such meeting. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Committee. Ten members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the society.

ARTICLE VII.

ADMINISTRATION.

The business of the Society shall be carried on by the Executive Committee, which shall consist of fifteen members. The first elected Executive Committee shall divide itself by lot into three classes of five members each, whose terms of office shall expire respectively at the three succeeding annual meetings. At each annual meeting after the organization five members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of three years.

During the first twenty days of April of

each year the Executive Committee shall receive and record all written nominations sent in by members of the Society for members of the Executive Committee to be elected at the ensuing annual meeting. On or before the last day of April the Executive Committee shall send to each member of the Society an official ballot, containing ten names, among which shall be the names of all retiring members of the Executive Committee who are willing to serve another term, the remainder being those other candidates who have received the highest number of nominations.

The votes at the annual meeting shall be cast upon such official ballots, and members may vote either in person or by mail.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the Society, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to every member at least one month before such meeting. The Executive Committee shall send out such notice of any proposed amendment which is presented bearing the signature of five per cent. of the members of the Society.

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